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Good Times

Scott Morgan

Masks, masks, and a Maskerade

"These Masks, each a cosmos, each a seed, project their presence . . ."
—Willow Young

A sparkling, colorful celebration of L.A.'s cultural diversity takes place in Hancock Park this weekend. Booths will display and sell artistic wares and ethnic delicacies, and there will be mask-making demonstrations, international displays and continuous entertainment. Among the host of performers: Ballet Folklorico Estudiantil Cuicacalli, a troupe dedicated to preserving dances from different regions of Mexico; Theater of the Red Chameleon, presenting Commedia Dell'Arte in leather half-masks and inviting audience participation; Patricia Bulitt in the Alaskan Mother of the Seals dance; and Balinese, Chinese and Nigerian dancers.

Anything goes at Maskerade IV on Saturday night, a high-energy event that takes place downtown in Myron's ballroom, an opulent showplace built by Mary Pickford in 1910, and very Art Deco with its 22 red-carpeted steps. It's been said that if you can't attend Mardi Gras in New Orleans, this is the place to go. Brazilian jazz great Moacir Santos provides the music, and among the distinguished members of the art world serving as judges is the *Weekly's* own Hunter Drohojowska, whose category is "Best Use of Latex." Last year's Grand Prize winner was an 8-foot tortoise, and one year 18 people, hand-painted in black and gold, attended as King Tut's funeral mask.

Grand climax is the parade on Sunday, not your ordinary parade by any means, but a magical, choreographed extravaganza, with the Grand Prize winner leading it off.

—Ann Edelman

***Festival of Masks**, Hancock Park, 5800 block of Wilshire Blvd.; Sat.-Sun, Oct 23-24, noon to dusk; **Maskerade IV**, Myron's Ballroom, Olympic and Grand Sts.; Sat., Oct. 23, 9 p.m.-2 a.m.; $10, reserved ringside seating, $35. Parade, Sun., Oct. 24; starts at Wilshire and Crescent Hts. Blvds. at 11:30 a.m., ends at Curson Ave. Call 934-8527.*

The Artist and TV

What do artists in Los Angeles, New York, and Iowa City have in common? Three hours of live performance to be simulcast on cable stations and at universities around the country. *The Artist and Television* features artists, educators and critics discussing the nature of video, whether TV can be a legitimate medium for contemporary art, and if so, should video art be viewed as a technological form of painting, sculpture, performance or something else? There is sure to be plenty of spontaneous and inventive screaming and shouting as well, especially when you consider a few of the participants from this fair city, among them, Peter Ivars and Co., Dennis Cooper, Chris Burden, Carl Stone with Patti Podesta, Gary Lloyd, Mike Kelly, Pier Marton, James Hugunin, Norman Lear, Allan Kaprow, Richard Meltzer and Lewis MacAdams. The event spotlights performers, interactors, position presentations, dialogues and lots of response. This must be the world's largest performance art piece, live on camera, and broadcast to a nationwide audience.

—Hunter Drohojowska

***The Artist and Television**, Fri., Oct. 22, 11 a.m.-2 p.m. Viewing Centers at Station Annex in Long Beach (call 439-0751), Cablevision of Orange (call 714-997-6678) and Southwestern Cable TV in San Diego (call 714-695-3110). The performance will also be picked up by Valley Cable, ch. 25, as well as any company with Appalachian Community Service Network.*

Troubadour from Texas

Never has quiet charisma and aw-shucks sincerity made such a massive dent in our collective consciousness as personified by traveling troubadour Willie Nelson. His simple yet slightly sly singing style tugs at America's heartstrings, tapping the common fear of the future and offering instead the warmth of the past. Nelson's so-called "progressive" country music is actually more "regressive," and its flash-flood popularity in the past five years is one of the happiest musical accidents America has seen. What Elvis Presley did for teenagers and rock & roll, Nelson has done for middle-classers and country & western. Even with braids and a beard, he's the man who *made* country cool.

They don't bill the show "Willie Nelson & Family" for nothing, either. His concerts resemble a reunion of relatives in their emotional informality, and even while the structure or pace might seem a shade too secure, Shotgun Willie can always be counted on to connect with his adoring audience. It's a long way from Luckenbach, Texas, to Universal City, but Nelson is one good ol' boy who keeps getting better.

—Bill Bentley

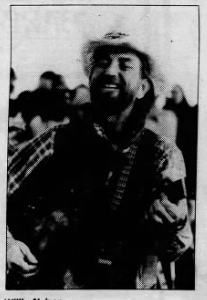
***Willie Nelson & Family**, Universal Amphitheater, Fri.-Tues., Oct. 22-26. Call 980-9421.*

Bud Cort and The Medflies

Good news for those who missed Bud Cort's nightclub debut this time last year. Bud's back (along with the almost original Medflies — backup singers Tamara de Tereaux, Myno Byrd Jackson, and Mikki Jackson) singing and chatting and delighting, re-creating the close-to-forgotten kind of experience a cabaret act used to be: intimate and fizzy and just plain fun. The material is new — more jazz and less ballads this time — but the effect is exactly the same. At the end of the show, Bud and his audience are beaming at one another, buoyed up and bouncing about because this performer knows how to bring out the best and freshest feelings in the music, himself and you. I promise.

—Ginger Varney

***Bud Cort and the Medflies**, The Comedy Store (Main Room), 8433 Sunset Blvd.; Tues.-Thurs., Oct. 26-28, 9 p.m.; Sun., Oct. 31, 7 p.m. Call 656-6225.*



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